(b) if so, the number of telephones provided to gram panchayats in Assam during the year 1992-93 district-wise; and

(c) what is the number of gram panchayats such facilities are proposed to be provided during the year 1993-94, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 555 Panchayat Villages in Assam have been covered with telephone facility during the year 1992-93. District-wise details are shown in the Statement. (*See* below).

620 Panchayat Villages in Assam are proposed to be provided with Telephone facility during the year 1993-94. District-wise details are shown in the Statement. (*See* below).

Statement

District-wise details of panchayat villages in Assam provided/proposed with telephone Facility

Sl. No.	Districts	No. of Panchayat Villages provided with telephone facility during 1992-93	No. of Panchayat Villages proposed for Telephone facility during 1993-94
1	2	3	4
1.	Dibrugarh .	22	14
2.	Tinsukia .	16	16
3.	Sibsagar .	22	25
4.	Golaghat .	23	25
5.	Jorhat .	27	40
6.	Nagaon .	101	70
7.	Marigaon .	5	20
8.	North Lakhimpur	4	10
9.	Dhemaji .	5	15
10.	Sonitpur .	48	40
11.	Darrang .	24	50
12.	Goalpara .	9	20
13.	Kokrajhar .	17	50
14.	Nalbari .	16	50
15.	Dhubri .	23	55
16.	Barpeta .	18	20
17.	Bongaigaon .	6	10
18.	Cachar .	73	20
19.	Karimganj .	20	15
20.	Hailakandi	8	15
21.	Kamrup	68	40
	TOTAL :	555	620

Deposits charged by MTNL for new Telephone connections

848. SHRI PASUMPON THAKIRUTTINAN:

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a deposit equal to a year's rental is being charged from those who are issued new telephone connections by the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited in Delhi and Bombay;

(b) if so, what are the terms of this deposit indicating the rate of interest allowed in the deposit and the period for which it is retained by the Nigam;

(c) whether the Nigam is taking deposits from the Public; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof indicating the rate of interest paid and the period for which the deposits are held by the Nigam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No interest is payable on such advance rental which is retained till the surrender of the connection. It is a safeguard against any default in payments of dues.

(c) No deposits are taken from general public.

(d) Does not arise in view of 'C' above.

Post-Offices established in the district of Gujarat

849. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposals are under consideration of Government for opening of new Post Offices at Prabha Road, Bamroli Road, Kanala Road and other at Bhuravay Road in Godhara State during the current financial year;

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government to provide these facilities to the people of Godhara city;

(c) whether these proposals are being examined by the Chief Post Master General of Gujarat Circle and discussed in the last informal meeting of Gujarat circle;

(d) what are the details of post Offices which have been set up so far by Government in Panchmahal districts; and

(e) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise. However, there are already Seven (7) Post Offices functioning in Godhara city.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) The details of Post Offices set up in Panchmahal districts are given in the Statement.

Statement

The details of Post Offices set up in Panchmahal district

1. Head Post Office . .	2
2. Sub Post Office . . .	44
3. Extra Departmental Sub Post Office . . .	4
4. Extra Departmental Branch Post Office . . .	483

Strike by the Employees of MTNL

850. SHRI PASUMPON THAKIRUTTINAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question No. 126 given in the Rajya Sabha on 27-4-93 and state:

(a) what are the dates on which the employees of M.T.N.L. remained on strike during April, 1993 and whether the strike period was treated on no work no pay basis;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are aware that a large number of telephones in Delhi remained non-functional before, during and after the strike for which no rebate in rent has been allowed by the Nigam to the subscribers; and

(d) if so, what action is proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?